(c) whether this meeting has affected the Enron Project in any way; and

(d) the name of India's representative at this meeting and what was the reaction of the US side on it since the alliance was conceived as a forum for joint interaction between business of both the countries for facilitating trade and investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Out of 10 Indian members on the Board of the Alliance, 7 members and 2 nominees (of members) attended the meeting. Reaction of the US side on the Enron Project does not arise in view of the reply to part (b) above.

Revocation of Detention Order

1963. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report which appeared in the Hindu dated 14th July, 1995 captioned "Buta Singh cancels Gujarat detention order";

(b) whether the Union Civil Supplies Minister had ordered the release of a black marketing petrol pump-owner arrested by the State Government; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) The Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 empowers the central Government to revoke any detention order made by a State Government under the Act. On considering/examining the representation of Shri P.S. Hariya, a detenu from Gujarat, the Central Government has revoked his detention order. Since this is a lawful action, no further action in the matter is called for.

Issuing of Advance Licence by DGFT to Visakhapatnam Steel Limited

1964. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that advance licences wree issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade recently to Visakhapatnam Steel Limited for import of copper plates against actual users licence;

(b) whether the quantity involved far exceeded the actual requirement of the VSL and if so, whether a part of the licence was nominated in the name of third parties;

(c) whether such third parties availed of import duty concessions to which they were not normally entitled to; and

(d) if so, whether Government would institute an inquiry into the matter and made available its findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Duty-free advance licences were issued (both value and quantity based) to VSP against their export orders/ export production programme, to meet their import requirement of various items of import, including copper plates, for the product to be exported, as per the standard input-output norms.

(b) to (d) In the quantity based licences, quantities of import items are restricted as per standard input-output norms/technical recommendations. In such cases party can import an item only upto the quantity mentioned in the licence. However, in case of value based licences, import items are not restricted quantity wise and, in general, flexibility has been allowed to import any of the inputs specified in the licence within the total CIF value of the licence. This facility is not available in the case of items appearing in the case of items appearing in the sensitive lists.

Certain relaxations were given in respect of input-output norms for some advance

licences given to VSP. The rationale for giving these relaxations is being looked into.

No licence was nominated in the name of any third party by the Government. As per the Policy, after fulfilment of export obligation and completion of other formalities, a licence is made transferable and the party is free to transfer such a licence to any third part. Such transferees can also import any items available in the licence, duty-free as per the Policy.

ठेकेदारों द्वारा गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्र में मजदूरों की भर्ती

1965. **श्री कामेश्वर पासवान:** क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या विभिन्न कार्यालयों, फर्मों और औद्योगिक इकाइयों विशेष रूप से गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्र में मजदूरों की भर्ती केवल ठेकेदारों द्वारा ही की जा रही है;

(ख) क्या अस्थायी संविदा मजदूरों को प्रबंधकों द्वारा स्थायी आधार पर चल रहे कामों के लिए भी नियुक्त किया जाता है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसका औचित्य क्या है और सरकार का इस संबंध में क्या दृष्टिकोण है; और

(घ) क्या सरकार इस विचार से सहमत है कि संविदा मजदूरी प्रणाली से केवल मजदूरों का ही शोषण होता है और मालिक तथा प्रबंधक फायदें में रहते है?

श्रम मंत्री (श्री पी.ए. संगमा): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) से (घ) ठेका श्रम (विनियमन और उत्पादन) अधिनियम, 1970 कतिपय प्रतिष्ठानों में ठेका श्रम के नियोजन को विनियमित और कतिपय परिस्थितियों में इसके उत्पादन का प्रावधान करता है। केन्द्रीय ठेका श्रम सलाहकार बोर्ड के परामर्श से सरकार द्वारा जांच किए जाने पर अधिनियम की धारा 10 के अन्तर्गत ठेका श्रमिकों का नियोजन प्रतिसिद्ध किया जा रहा है।

Working of Consumer Grivances Redressal Cells

1966. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Consumer Grivenances Redressal Cells/Courts set up by Government have been doing excellent work in protecting consumer interests all over the country;

(b) if so, whether Government would consider allocation of more funds towards augmenting facilities/manpower for smooth functioning of Consumer Courts and to upgrade their existing judicial powers: and

(c) whether Government would also consider levying a consumer welfare cess from every manufacturer/purveyor of goods/services to build a corpus for Consumer Welfare Fund in order to provide free legal aid to consumers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government has agreed to release Rs. 61 crores, in four half yearly instalments to the States/UTs to strengthen the infrastructure of the Consumer Courts set up under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. So far, it has sanctioned Rs. 5 crores to them as a part payment of the first instalment.

(c) No, Sir.

Allotment of Rice to Private Exporters

1967. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether private exporters are being allotted rice from the Food Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the basis on which the allotment is made to the private exporters;

(c) whether there has been a delay in giving the delivery of rice by F.C.I. to the rice exporters;

(d) if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(e) the steps taken to regulate the system?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have authorised the FCI to sell fine & superfine rice to the exporters including S.T.C., M.M.T.C. & PEC on the following criteria:

(i) Placement of demand on FCI for purchase under Open Market Sale Scheme for export by depositing 1% of basic cost as EMD.

(ii) Shipment schedule for different ports indicated by the buyers.

(iii) Local availability of stocks of required